



Gokibiru Coast


濃昼海岸Sea Kayaking Map1:25000






5hrs

Time




15km

Distance




7/10

Difficulty




4/5

Remoteness



2/5

Water clarity



Jun-Aug

Best season

With caves, coves, cliffs, and waterfalls, this is a beautiful Sea of Japan paddle north of Sapporo on the Mashike coast. Expect wide vistas and plenty of birdlife. The two ends of the route are campsites - one is a free, grassy, well-kept municipal campground, and the other is a friendly private campground right next to the water. Being downstream of the Ishikari River mouth, the water in the area is not crystal-clear like other parts of the Japan Sea coast, but if you visit on the right day, there is some incredible surfing to be had just south of Hamamasu at Bishibatsu.

LOCATION
This short sea kayaking daytrip route is located just south of Mashike on the Rumoi Coast of western Hokkaido, about 1.5hrs drive north of Sapporo City. Here, we describe paddling from the small town of Hamamasu south towards the tiny hamlet of Gokibiru, but naturally the route can be paddled in the opposite direction also.

Put-in location: The small township of Hamamasu 浜益 is arguably home to one of Hokkaido's nicest free municipal seaside campgrounds – Kawashimo Seaside Park 川下海浜公園. There's good access to the beach from the massive parking areas at either end of the park. The beach is about a 200m walk from the car. The beach itself is



somewhat protected by breakwater blocks just off the beach, so launching a kayak should be manageable in most conditions. If you'd prefer to shorten the trip by about 3km, there's also the option of putting in at Bishibatsu Beach 毘砂別海浜. This is a popular surf beach, however, so paddlers may encounter considerable surf for launching.

Take-out location: We opted to take out at the Gokibiru campground 濃昼キャンプ場 (open from early July till mid-September). There is direct access to the campground from the water. The beach is quite rocky but is usually sheltered from most swell directions. In line with Hokkaido bylaws, Gokibiru fishing port is off-limits to kayaks unless in an emergency or there is no other feasible option. If necessary, kayakers could also take out in the tiny hamlet of Okurige , here, just north of Gokibiru. Note that parking may be problematic in Okurige, however, as there are no public parking areas – if possible, ask a local where you can park

and/or take out, in advance.

GENERAL NOTES
For many Sapporo-based weekend day-paddlers, the coast north of the city is generally shunned for the calmer (and clearer) waters of the Shakotan Peninsula. The Mashike coast is, however, a very attractive coast, with plenty to explore. This particular section feels far from the madding crowds, especially since National Highway 231 is either far inland from the coast, or far above the coast, above the cliffs. There are also some popular surf zones for those keen to hone their kayak surfing skills. This is definitely an area worth keeping an eye on the weather for.

Gokibiru Seaside Campground: This private campground is run by a somewhat eccentric chap who has mixed reviews online. That said, we were quick to explain that we were happy to pay day-use fees in return for landing at the campground, and he was very welcoming.



He even gave our group of four a free cup of shaved ice each for our efforts “paddling all the way from Hamamasu!” Bicycle parking fees overnight are 200yen per bike. Car parking is 2000yen overnight.

ROUTE TIMING AND NOTES
There are a number of coves, caves, and waterfalls to explore along this route, so we recommend allowing a solid 5-6 hours of very leisurely paddling for this route.

Put in at Hamamasu beach, and paddle the 3km or so south, past the Bishabetsu surf zone and on to the rocky coastal area proper. In about 2km from Bishabetsu beach is the sheltered Tarama Cove タラマ suitable for a break. The cove beach consists of large round rocks, but it should be an easy landing. Just around the corner of the cove is the first of a number of small waterfalls along the route. This one is tucked into the hillside. Blink and you'll miss it.

About 1km south of the cove is the first of a few caves along the route. This one's entrance is cathedral-like, and the cave itself doesn't extend too deep into the cliff. There's another small cave just past Washiwa 鷺岩 too, a few hundred meters south. Just south of Aikappu Point 愛冠 is another small waterfall, visible from the water.

1.5km further south from Aikappu, 1km past Buimawashi Point ブイマワシ is the most impressive cave on the route. The entrance is narrow (about 3m wide), and the cave remains that way until its terminus about 40m into the rock. If the conditions are flat, paddle backwards into the cave – you can ‘beach’ a kayak on the steep stony beach at the end of the cave. Bring a headlamp, and explore another 15m or so deeper before the cave ends.

Another 300m along the coast from the cave is a stony beach suitable for an extended break, just before rounding the minor point to the small hamlet of Okurige 送毛. In the worst case, if the conditions are getting unmanageable, Okurige can be a good place to escape the water – there are concrete ramps to pull up on if necessary. Note however that there's no public transport to Okurige, nor are there any taxi companies in the wider area. You'd be hitching back to your car.

From Okurige it's another 2km to the beautiful Gokibiru Falls 濃昼の滝. This is a popular winter ice-climbing spot. In summer, access is difficult on foot, so you'll likely have the place to yourself. Clamber up part way for a fresh-water shower.

From Gokibiru Falls it's another 2km to Gokib-

iru Seaside Campground. If you make it clear that you're happy to pay the day-entry fee (200yen per person), then the campground staff will be more than happy to let you land there (they're a quirky bunch...). They allowed us to park two bicycles at the campground overnight for 200yen per bike – we dropped them off the day before, so we could cycle back to Hamamasu to get our car.

TRANSPORT
By car I There is plenty of free parking in Hamamasu, at the northern and southern ends of the Kawashimo Seaside Campground 川下海浜キャンプ場. The beach is just a minute walk away from the parking area. At the Gokibiru end of the route, there's very little public parking close to the water's edge. The closest public parking is the Gokibiru Parking Area 濃昼パーキングエリア, about 650m up the hill from the coast. Note also that the only access to the water at Gokibiru is from the private (but very friendly) Gokibiru campground 濃昼海浜キャンプ場. They charge a 200yen per person entry fee (day parking for a car is 1000yen, overnight parking is 2000yen).

Public transport I Public transport is patchy for this route. Gokibiru bus stop 濃昼/バス停 and Hamamasu bus stop 浜益/バス停 are accessible by a once-daily bus from/to Sapporo, run by Engan Bus 沿岸/バス, but the bus only runs on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. It also runs on some major public holidays (Golden Week, Obon, New Year break). The bus from Sapporo leaves at 4:10pm, and the return bus leaves Hamamasu at 8:30am. Google Maps has up-to-date timetable information. If I were to take public transport to paddle this route with a folding kayak, I'd work in with the bus timetable by planning to camp a couple of nights at the very friendly Gokibiru

Campground (650m walk from bus stop) or at the large, immaculately kept municipal (free) campground at Hamamasu (1.7km south of bus stop).

SAFETY NOTES
The coast between Hamamasu and Okurige (about 6km) is entirely inaccessible by foot. In many places, it's just sheer cliff. Paddlers need to be self-sufficient, and confident in their paddling abilities should conditions get heavy.


ONSEN NEARBY
It's 4km inland from Hamamasu beach, but the Hamamasu Onsen 浜益温泉 (500yen) is a wonderful onsen facility with nice outdoor baths. Very highly recommended. As of July 2022, the attached restaurant is still closed due to the pandemic. ■



| Japanese Map Glossary | | |
|-----------------------|-------|--------------|
| Romaji | Kanji | English |
| cho | 町 | town |
| dake/mine | 岳/峯 | peak |
| eki | 駅 | station |
| goya/koya | 小屋 | hut |
| gyoko | 漁港 | fishing port |
| ike | 池 | pond |
| iwa | 岩 | rock |
| kaigan | 海岸 | coast |
| kawa/gawa | 川 | river |
| ko/mizumi | 湖 | lake |
| ko | 港 | port |
| misaki | 岬 | cape |
| onsen | 温泉 | hot spring |
| sawa | 沢 | stream |
| shima | 島 | island |
| tani/dani | 谷 | valley |
| taki | 滝 | waterfall |
| today | 灯台 | lighthouse |
| toge | 峠 | pass |
| wan | 湾 | bay |
| yama/san/zan | 山 | mountain |

ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE

Please visit the full route guides for GPS files, interactive maps, and extra safety notes: <http://hokw.jp/gokib>



Disclaimer

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MAP, TEXT, PHOTOS | Rob Thomson



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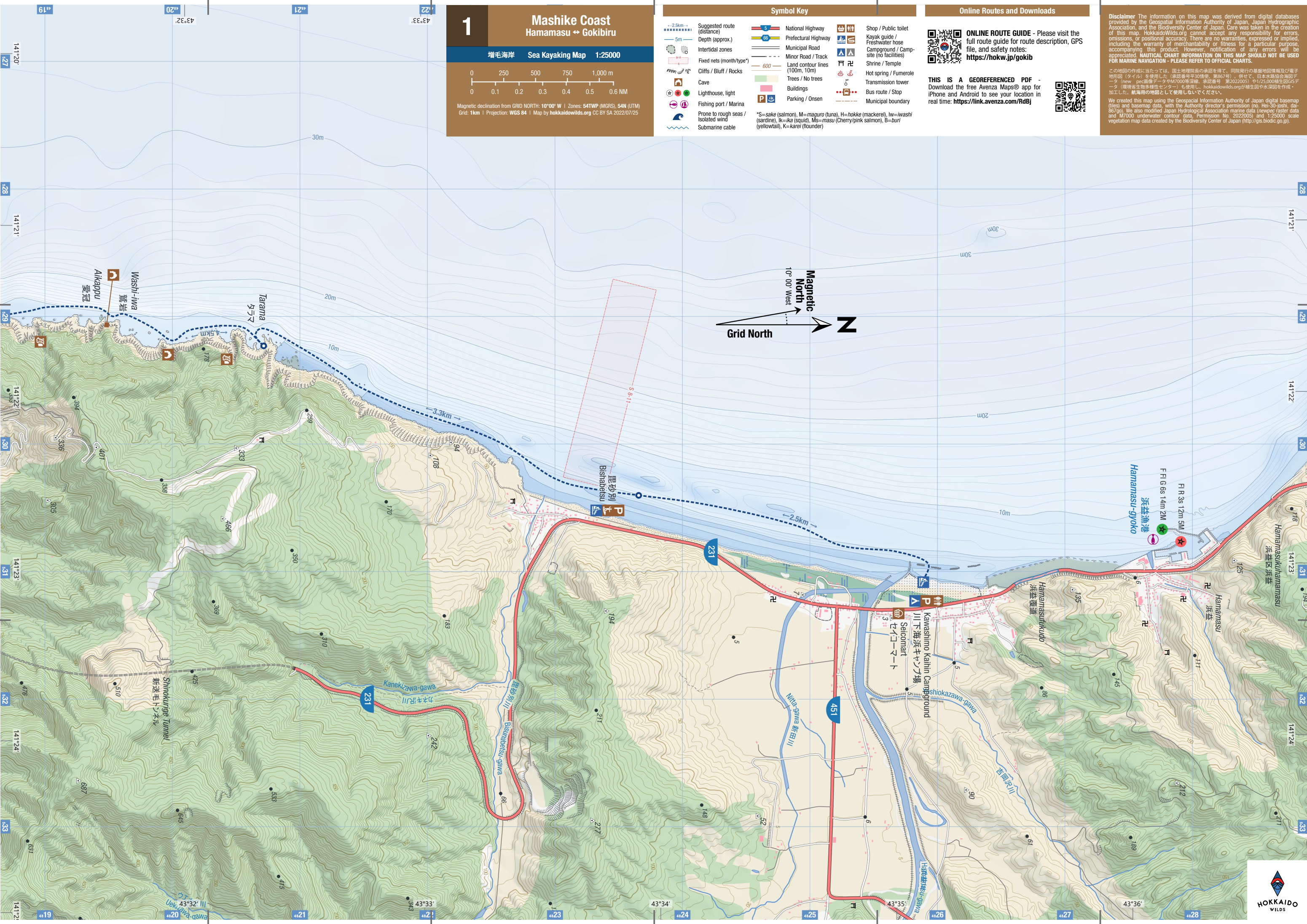
MAP FOLD & LAYOUT CONCEPT | Dominika Gan

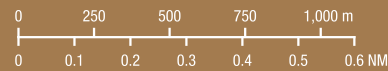
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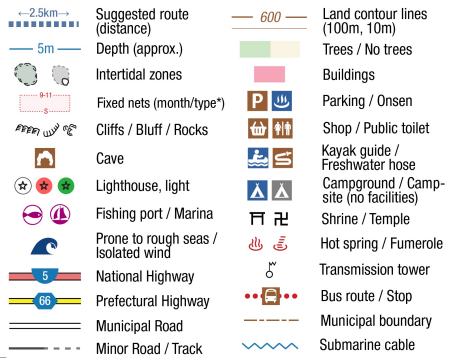






Magnetic declination from GRID NORTH: 10°00' W | Zones: 54TWP (MGRS), 54N (UTM)
Grid: 1km | Projection: WGS 84 | Map by hokkaidowilds.org CC BY SA 2022/07/25

Symbol Key



*S=*sake* (salmon), M=*maguro* (tuna), H=*hokke* (mackerel), Iw=*iwashi* (sardine), Ik=*ika* (squid), Ms=*masu* (Cherry/pink salmon), B=*buri* (yellowtail), K=*karei* (flounder)



ONLINE ROUTE GUIDE - Please visit the full route guide for route description, GPS file, and safety notes: <https://hokw.jp/gokib>



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We created this map using the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan digital basemap (files) and basemap data, with the Authority director's permission (no. H61-30-joshi, dai-67go). We also modified Japan Hydrographic Institute Association marine data (newpec raster data and M7000 underwater contour data, Permission No. 2022005) and 1:25,000 scale vegetation map data created by the Biodiversity Center of Japan (<http://gis.biodic.go.jp/>).

PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1

Load your printer with A3 printer paper (297mm x 420mm). If you've only got Tabloid or Ledger size (279mm x 432 mm), just follow the instructions below. You'll achieve an accurate scale, but the map will be clipped a little at the top and bottom.

STEP 2

Open the print window by clicking on File > Print (or hitting Ctrl + P on your keyboard).

STEP 3

Make sure "Actual Size" is selected.

STEP 4

For double-sided printing, select "Print on both sides of paper".

STEP 5

For best results, select the highest quality print option available on your printer (settings will vary).

STEP 6

You won't need this instructions page, so just select the pages that don't include this instruction sheet.

STEP 7

Click "Print".

PLEASE PRINT AT 'ACTUAL SIZE' (NO SCALING)

The 1:25,000 scale used in the map is accurate if the PDF is printed without scaling (i.e., ACTUAL SIZE). Follow the instructions on this page to ensure an accurate rendering of the scale.



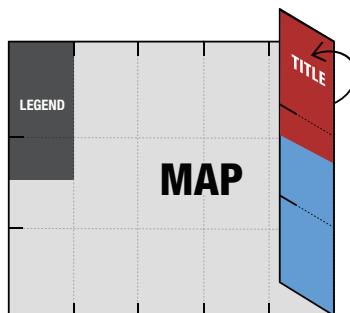
Figure 1. Ensure "Actual Size" is selected (Windows).

ORIGAMI INSTRUCTIONS

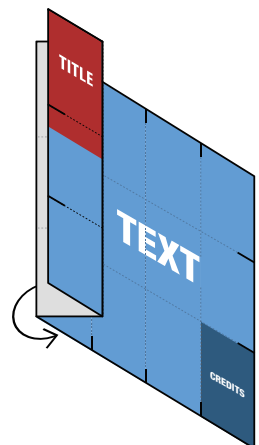
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2



3



4



5



6



7

